GENUINE MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE OF JOSHUA CROMPTON,

WHO WAS CONVICTED AT THE

ASSIZES AT GUILDFORD,

JULY 31, 1778,

FOR UTTERING A FORGED BANK NOTE.

CONTAINING

A Variety of curious and inſtructive Anecdotes, extraordinary Stratagems, and uncommon Artifices, never before exhibited to the Public.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

His Trial and Manner of Behaviour under Sentence of Death; by a Perſon who has viſited Crompton ſince his Confinement, and taken Minutes from himſelf.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE crime of Forgery is of ſo very dangerous a tendency in a commercial country, that too much care cannot be taken, or too exemplary puniſhments be inflicted on ſuch culprits as are convicted of this baneful innovation upon the properties of their fellow countrymen. In a nation like this where trade is its chief ſupport, and which cannot be carried on without paper credit; the ſmalleſt ſhock that this may receive muſt neceſſarily be very detrimental to the whole community. If the paper credit of individuals being called in queſtion, can give a ſtagnation to commerce, when that of a great Company, the Bank of a whole kingdom becomes doubtful, the circulation

of their bills muſt ſtop, and in the end a national bankruptcy muſt enſue; as it is impoſſible, in the preſent ſtate of things, that ſpecie can ſupply the neceſſary demands in trade and correſpondence. Even if there were a ſufficient quantity to make good all the payments in commerce, traffic, &c. as the incumbrance, not to mention the riſk of tranſmitting large ſums to diſtant parts of the country would be ſo great, and as the exportation of it is prohibited, without the aid of paper money, conſidered equally valuable as caſh, our trade would be in a great meaſure be deſtroyed; and from an opulent we ſhould dwindle into an inſignificant ſtate.

We need only look back but a few years to recollect the fatal effects of the ſtagnation of Bank notes, when they were refuſed in payment (1745), and the run upon the Bank was ſo great, that the Directors were under the diſagreeable neceſſity of paying in ſilver; a circumſtance that greatly impeded trade, and threw the whole nation into a violent ferment,

ferment, under the apprehenſion that a national bankruptcy would enſue,—when that real Patriot, Sir Stephen Theodore Janſſen, ſtood forth and ſet on foot an aſſociation for the free circulation and acceptance of Bank bills as uſual, whereby the confidence of the people was immediately reſtored, and the Bank reſumed its wonted credit.

If, therefore, from any cauſe whatever, Bank paper ſhould in any degree become doubtful, its utility in point of circulation muſt in a great meaſure be deſtroyed; for if a Bank note is not conſidered of equal value and as negociable as caſh, it loſes its utility in trade and all other dealings, and muſt greatly obſtruct, if not annihilate, all money-buſineſs that requires an immediate negociation.

This being the ſtate of the caſe, nothing could more affect the credit of the Bank than the negociation of forged bills in its name, eſpecially, when they reſemble ſo nearly

nearly the genuine, that it requires ſome ſkill, and more than a common acquaintance with this kind of paper, to peremptorily determine upon its value.

Forgery having of late years become ſo prevalent and daring, it was judged neceſſary by the Legiſlature to make it a capital offence; this has not, however, had the deſired effect of deterring the bold invader of his neighbour's property, from purſuing his villainous practices. Some recent inſtances will evince this aſſertion; ſcarce had the Perreaus ſuffered for their temerity (though the greateſt intereſt was made to ſave them, and ſome perſons of high rank and fortune appeared at the Old Bailey, to give Robert, in particular, the beſt of characters,) 'ere an eminent Divine, who was almoſt the idol of his followers, was found guilty of a ſimilar offence; and though many thouſands petitioned for mercy, he was compelled to ſubmit to the rigour of his ſentence.

Theſe remarkable forgeries have been followed by ſeveral of inferior note; but none of ſo fatal a tendency to the community at large as the ſubject of the following ſheets, as the boldneſs of the attempt might not only have affected individuals, but by a more general circulation of theſe notes, have given a dangerous ſhock to paper credit in general, and that of the Bank in particular.

GEN-

GENUINE MEMOIRS OF THE LIFE OF JOSHUA CROMPTON.

JOSHUA Crompton was born in Lancaſhire, of honeſt induſtrious parents. A ſmall farm produced them the means of ſupport and bringing up their family in a manner ſuitable to their ſtation in life. Writing, reading, and a little accounts, were all the learning that fell to Joſhua's lot. Nevertheleſs, he thought himſelf qualified to move, if not in a brilliant, at leaſt in a more comfortable ſphere, than that of a labouring huſbandman. He had very early an intimate intercourſe with the female ſex; and

the apprehenſions of the daughter of a neighbouring farmer being pregnant by him, induced him to make a precipitate retreat, and he repaired to Lancaſter, where he changed his name. He learnt from an acquaintance whom he met there ſometime after, that his laſs, finding her ſwain had decamped, prudently made an acquaintance with a certain 'Squire, who being thoroughly convinced he had been the firſt poſſeſſor of her charms, neceſſarily believed he was the father of the now ſhortly expected infant, and that accordingly he had prepared a proper retreat for her temporary retirement. Theſe tidings gladdened Joſhua's heart; and having ſurmounted this misfortune, as he conſidered it, he returned to his father's, and for ſome time reſumed his former function; and he alſo renewed his acquaintance with *Nancy*, who aſſured him, that her affection for him was as great as ever; and that it was owing to that affection, that ſhe had yielded to the 'Squire, in order to ſcreen him from the conſequences of his being the avowed father. Thus things went on ſwimmingly, till the time of her lying-in approached, when Joſhua was obliged to diſcontinue his viſits to his ſtill beloved Nancy.

About

About this time an opportunity offered for Crompton to change his ſtation in life. Captain Ph—ps, a gentleman of conſiderable property in Lancaſhire, was in want of a man-ſervant. Joſhua hearing of this circumſtance, and thinking it a far more eligible ſituation than that of a plowman, offered his ſervice: the Captain knowing his family, and he being a likely lad, took him into his houſe, and Joſhua immediately wore his livery.

In this ſtation he acquitted himſelf greatly to the ſatisfaction of his maſter, his gueſts, and all his family. Ambition began to fire Joſhua's breaſt; and he had the preſumption to form ſome expectations from the civility of the Captain's ſiſter, that ſhe had a *penchant* for him. She was poſſeſſed of a ſmall fortune (about 500l.) which was at her own diſpoſal: in many reſpects ſhe was a weak woman, eaſily perſuaded to any thing. She had more than once ſighed in Joſhua's preſence, and even permitted him to take a kiſs without repulſing him. Finding that his advances thus far ſucceeded, he was reſolved to try a bold ſtroke for a wife; and one day, whilſt the family were all out except theſe

two, he flung himſelf at her feet, and ſpoke to her a romantic ſpeech out of a play, which he had got by heart, which ſo affected her, that ſhe frankly owned he was the only man that had ever made any impreſſion on her, and that from the moment ſhe firſt ſaw him, ſhe entertained ſuch a partiality for him as ſhe could not ſuppreſs.

After ſuch an *eclairciſſement*, we may readily ſuppoſe that Joſhua let no opportunity ſlip of advancing his ſuit, or approaching the happy hour that he might call her his own. In fine, a few weeks only elapſed before they were married. Captain Ph—ps upon hearing the tidings was almoſt outrageous, and was for putting the villain to death, who had taken the advantage of his ſiſter's weakneſs, or rather inſanity, and thus diſhonoured his family. But after the firſt ebullition of his rage was over, he yielded to reaſon; and finding there was no remedy now left, but a reconciliation to what had happened; he gave himſelf no further concern about his weak ſiſter or her diſhonourable huſband.

Joſhua, as may eaſily be imagined, did not return to a ſtate of ſervitude; but having got poſſeſſion

poſſeſſion of his wife's fortune, entered into buſineſs for himſelf, and opened a hardware ſhop in Lancaſter. He for ſome time carried on a very pretty trade, and ſeemed very attentive to buſineſs; but at length his natural diſpoſition for gaiety and diſſipation prevailed. He purchaſed as fine a hunter as that country could produce; and was not only preſent at all the horſe races within many miles of Lancaſter, but had the effrontery to aſſociate with the gentlemen of different hunts. However, as he behaved very civilly, and was a young fellow of tolerable natural underſtanding, they winked at his former vocations, and permitted him to partake of their amuſements. A very unfortunate circumſtance for him, though he then thought it a very lucky one; as it occaſioned him to be at a conſiderable expence, and as his circumſtances could not afford him to be upon a par with gentlemen of great fortunes; and at the ſame time it ingroſſed ſo much of his attention as to make him neglect his buſineſs.

His wife was a woman who, from her former ſituation, was entirely ignorant of every thing that conſtituted the houſewife; far leſs was ſhe qualified

qualified to look after the ſhop; beſides the ſtate of her mind was ſuch, as more properly qualified her for a mad-houſe, than to regulate the affairs of a family, and ſupply the place of her huſband in buſineſs.

Crompton's domeſtic affairs being in this ſituation, we may eaſily conjecture the conſequences. Soon after the ſecond year he had entered into trade, he found himſelf incapable of making good his payments. In vain did he make application to his brother-in-law for his aſſiſtance; his letters remained unanſwered, or they were returned unopened. His creditors now became clamorous. For ſome time he ſhuffled with them, and endeavoured to keep his head above water:—they upbraided him with his extravagance, and wantonly rioting with their property. He, as his *derniere reſource*, applied to the club, of which he was a member, and where he thought himſelf ſecure of relief; but his pride had hitherto prevented his making application, as he was in hopes of re-eſtabliſhing his affairs without their being acquainted with his diſtreſs, that he might ſtill figure amongſt them with equal *eclat* as before, and without their ſuſpecting his poverty.

But

But how great was his mortification, when he found they would not afford him the leaſt aſſiſtance, and had even ſtruck him off the liſt.

In this perplexed and diſtracted ſtate, he ruminated upon putting an end to an exiſtence that was become to him almoſt inſupportable. His wife was now, in ſome degree, ſenſible of her folly, and the wretched ſtate to which ſhe had reduced herſelf; her phrenzy turned into rage, and ſhe might almoſt literally be termed raving mad. The common neceſſaries of life wanting—credit entirely exhauſted—a ſeizure of his goods—turned adrift without lodging, friends, or money. He did not long heſitate what ſtep to take in this truly calamitous ſituation. In a word, he took French leave, and ſet off for the metropolis on foot, and having but little baggage to carry, it was of no great incumbrance to him. He left his wife and two children behind him, who have ſince been ſupported by the Captain her brother.

With ſcarce money to accompliſh his journey, he reached London almoſt pennyleſs. What courſe was he now to ſteer—he found a ſtrong incli-

inclination for eating; but the means appeared to him impracticable. He went into a public-houſe, and having called for half a pint of beer, which was the full extent of his pocket, he aſked the woman at the bar if ſhe would give credit for ſome bread and cheeſe, upon his depoſiting a ſhirt (which he had in his pocket) with her? She replied, that ſhe never took in pledges, but that if he repaired over the way, pointing to the three blue balls, they would lend him what they could afford upon it. He accordingly made application, and, to his great aſtoniſhment, raiſed five ſhillings upon the remainder of his wardrobe.

His pocket being thus repleniſhed, as he at preſent conſidered it, he reſolved to make a comfortable meal, not having had one ſince, or indeed long before, he left Mancheſter. Never did he reliſh the niceſt delicacies with ſo much glee, as he did now a clod of beef in a cellar in St. Giles's.

After he had thus, if not elegantly, at leaſt ſubſtantially regaled himſelf, he began to ruminate upon a lodging for the night. An entire ſtranger in London, without the leaſt recommen-

mendation, appeared to be in a very doubtful ſituation; but at length eſpying a bill inſcribed "Lodgings for ſingle men," he reſolved to make a puſh, and knocking at the door, a comely dame opened it, who ſeemed to have much good nature in her countenance, when he jocularly aſked her, if ſhe had no lodgings to let for "ſingular men, as well as ſingle men?" for that he was in a very *ſingular ſituation:* the conceit pleaſed her, and ſhe liſtened to his ſtory, which he made as ſpecious as poſſible, and ſhe admitted him as a lodger.

Having thus made good his quarters, his mind began to be a little more becalmed; and this being the firſt time he had enjoyed a bed ſince his departure from the place of his abode, he found a comfortable bed a very good companion, and giving way to the ſolicitations of Morpheus, he lay till next day at noon. His landlady having recollected ſome part of his diſtreſsful ſtory that was rather alarming, began to be terrified, leſt he had been excited to commit ſome raſh action, and having called to him ſeveral times in vain, ſhe at length opened his chamber door, and on drawing back the cur-

 tains,

tains, was agreeably ſurpriſed to find he was wrapt in gentle ſleep. The hoſteſs, who might be pronounced a buxom widow, and ſtill not paſſed her prime, in examining him in his dormant ſtate, diſcovered ſome *traits* that pleaſed her; and upon her obſerving him awaken, ſtept down ſtairs and prepared him a baſon of tea and toaſt. Upon her return he was ſitting up in bed, quite awake, and his kind viſiter very agreeably ſurpriſed him in turn, with the refreſhment ſhe brought him.

Having cleaned himſelf as well as he could, conſidering the ſtate of his wardrobe, he paid his compliments to her in the parlour, when ſhe very courteouſly gave him an invitation to dinner, which the reader may believe was civilly accepted.

Joſhua's natural turn for gallantry once more prevailed, and his buxom landlady threw out ſuch inſinuations, as plainly indicated there was no great occaſion for two beds. Joſhua knew enough of the ſex not to have a hint of this ſort thrown away upon him; the conſummation of their nuptials *ſans ceremonie*, ſoon enſued, and

and he now found that he had not only made good his quarters, but that he was free at bed and at board.

Whilſt theſe *Halcyon* days and nights continued, he had no occaſion to trouble himſelf about ways and means, or even ſupplies. A genteel ſuit of cloaths of Mrs. D.'s former huſband perfectly fitted him, his linen ſuited Joſhua very well; his watch was fobbed as eaſily as a glove, and a few *ſpankers* from her purſe enabled him to apper at the Tennis Court and the Billiard Table as a Gentleman. He was a new face, and as ſuch he was conſidered as a country flat; but the knowing-ones were miſtaken; he played a good game at Billiards, and was capable of coping with ſeveral of the Commiſſioners of the Board of Green-Cloth. In a word, he turned the tables upon the *Black Legs*, and levied pretty contributions upon them for ſome months.

Fortune had now favoured him, ſhe thought, long enough; her dimples vaniſhed, her ſmiles ſubſided—Mrs. D. was ſuddenly taken ill of a violent fever, which carried her off in a few

days. Her relations, knowing her connection with Joſhua, immediately ſeized all her effects, and poor Crompton was in a moſt dejected ſtate; however he was ſtill poſſeſſed of the cloaths, the watch, and ſome guineas. Another unlucky circumſtance occurred at the ſame time; as his face began now to be pretty well known at the billiard tables, and the force of his play, he loſt his matches, and was, like the other Commiſſioners of the Board of Green-Cloth, obliged to lie in wait for a *good man*, a perfect phænomenon in theſe days. His pocket daily ebbed, his watch found it's way to the blue balls, and he became almoſt as deplorable as upon his *very triumphal* entry into this great capital.

In this ſituation he met with Mr. H——eſt, a ſucceſſor to the celebrated Jemmy Bolland. H——eſt found Joſhua a man after his own mind—cunning, artful, hypocritical, and deceitful; only wanting a proper initiation into the myſteries of his very eligible and multifarious buſineſs. After paſſing ſome evenings at the Sun in Ruſſel-ſtreet, Covent-garden, H—— took C—— on one ſide—"I'll tell you what, "my boy, you are waſting your time; I per-

"ceive

" ceive you are in diſtreſs, and you may be of " ſervice to yourſelf and me; call upon me to- " morrow morning, and I'll tell you more of " my mind.—In the mean while, if you ſhould " want half a crown, here it is for you." The preſent was very acceptable, and Joſhua being now enliſted, he repaired the next morning to the genral's head quarters in Shire-lane.

H——n opened his mind at large to Crompton, " I may ſay with Foot, in the Author, " (ſaid H——n) that there are myſteries in all " trades; but our's is one great arcanum. My " predeceſſor, poor Jemmy, who was carried off " in his prime for nothing in the world but a " little *innocent* forgery, gave me fine inſights, " his inſtructions were admirable; no man " knew better than him how to make the moſt " of his friends—His general axiom was, 'I " do not pretend to be an honeſt man; but I " will tell a lie for no one.' How often have I " heard him expreſs himſelf in this ſeemingly " frank and blunt manner with the greateſt ſuc- " ceſs. Let me tell you there was no one who " knew his P's and Q's better than Jemmy, " but he ventured a little too far; he built too

" much

"much upon his own judgment—he had of-
"fended the blind Knight, and the Knight was
"reſolved to be revenged of him; beſides L.
"who was almoſt as deep in the mud as Jem-
"my was in the mire, owed him a grudge, that
"nothing but his life could atone for; but let
"me adviſe you never to be violent, take the
"times as they go—ſtudy your men; know
"your women; and that is half the battle.
"You ſee I have ſteered clear of all theſe quick-
"ſands, and entirely upon this ſimple principle.
"Beware of liquor, it throws a man off his
"guard, and lays him open to a thouſand at-
"tacks and ſurprizes. Neither let women get
"the advantage of you; always have Mackheath
"in your eye; and let him guard you againſt
"thoſe *Baſiliſks*, as he juſtly calls them. Hav-
"ing given you theſe general hints, I muſt now
"ſend you upon an exploit. He is a ſhy cock,
"and therefore you muſt mind your hits; but
"as you are a new face in the buſineſs you will
"probably ſucceed, for he knows all the old
"ones, as well as he does A. B. C." H——n having given Crompton this introductory lecture, the latter ſet off immediately upon his expedition, and made his caption in leſs than

an

an hour. This extraordinary coup was greatly extolled by the whole fraternity, as they all had been after *Sky-cock* for upwards of a month. Accordingly Joſhua was kept *en reſerve* for extraordinary *coups de main*, after the uſual forces had given up the attack.

Being thus immured as it were till he was called forth to action, he had much leiſure time upon his hands; and Miſs H——n, who could not help admiring his extraordinary parts, liſtened to his fond tale, of which he was a very complete maſter. His captions were not confined to the male ſex; his life and operations had been for the greater part devoted to the *fair*. Miſs H——n appeared in his eyes an object worthy of his aſſiduities, and he called them forth in her ſervice. After a ſhort ſiege ſhe capitulated, and now Joſhua thought he was upon ſuch a footing in the family, being initiated into all the myſteries of the trade, and ſon-in-law to the greateſt dealer in that branch, that he might dictate as well as H——n. Some peremptory inſtructions he gave to the Runners offended H——n, and he found that in C—— he would not only have a partner, but a rival and

and a dictator; accordingly he reſoved to get rid of him, but for the honour of the family alliance, H——n thought it incumbent in him to get Crompton upon the ſame eſtabliſhment as himſelf.

Thus then we find Mr. Joſhua Crompton ſtart upon the town, with full power and authority to exerciſe the moſt arbitrary and extortionary calling upon earth.

Mr. Joſhua followed cloſely the ſteps of his arch-maſter, the celebrated Jemmy Bolland of pious memory, being bred in the ſame ſeminary, and matriculated, as it were, in the ſame college, and under the ſame roof, he caught, ſeemingly by intuition, the rudiments of impoſture, and the duplicity of chicane. He could ſoften the rigour of the law, and adminiſter freedom at ſtipulated prices. A needy tradeſman, or a young ſpendthrift juſt of age, were fine objects to exert his talents upon.

Mr. S——, a linnen draper of ſome credit in the Strand, had the misfortune to fall into his clutches, the debt was about eighty pounds.

Plantiff

Plantiff was obſtinate and would not come to any compromiſe. The note was overdue ſome weeks; had been proteſted, and he had been obliged to take it up at a very inconvenient time. This was the Plaintiff's plea for his ſeverity. Defendant was under the greateſt perplexity of mind, for fear his confinement ſhould get wind among his other creditors. "What is to be "done, Mr. Crompton?—I am a ruined man if "I remain here four and twenty hours." This was *nuts ready cracked* for Joſhua: whilſt S——— was in a paroxyſm of deſpair, being quite off his guard, Crompton wormed from him the creditor he was the moſt apprehenſive of. Having thus far ſucceeded, it was compaſſion now that actuated him, and as S———'s affairs were ſo critically ſituated, he would give him his liberty conditionally, which could not be thought unreaſonable, as he muſt ſtand in the gap. This was to depoſit linen goods, to the amount of the debt and coſts in C.'s hands, which would be as ſafe as in his own warehouſe. The bait, though infamous, was caught at. The goods were lodged at Crompton's, and diſpoſed of the next day. The unfortunate S———'s principal creditor was, for a ſtipulated ſum, in-

formed of the real ſtate of S——'s finances, and relodged in his former habitation. The ſequel is obvious—no account ſettled for the goods depoſited—his affairs and himſelf ſo extremely involved, that he was reduced to beggary.

But my friend Joſhua ſoared to higher game. A member of the Iriſh parliament was recommended to Crompton as a perſon who could ſerve him upon an imergency. A thouſand was wanting. Joſhua knew his man; he only took thirty-four per cent. intereſt—Moderate as the ſtate of uſury goes! But C. had his back game to play, he was not ſatisfied with the firſt hit—a gammon, ſaid he, by G—d; and nobody knew better how to throw doublets. Three days after he arreſted Mr. D—— for the debt, and he was conveyed to his own houſe: what is more, the firſt perſon he ſaw to greet him at his entrance was Joſhua. Amazing inſolence! D—— began to ſwear; Crompton reminded him he was a gentleman, and muſt pay a crown an oath; D—— ſwore the more, and Crompton took minutes of every oath: at length, having exhauſted his rage, he threw himſelf into a ſettee, and after ſome little repoſe, aſked Joſhua, how he

he could be ſuch a villain to ſerve him in that manner? "Sir, (replied *honeſt* Joſhua) I heard "you were upon the point of going abroad, to "make the tour of Europe, and I thought it "was prudent to lay an embargo upon you for "fear of accidents." This drove the 'Squire almoſt mad, as he had no ſuch intention as was ſuggeſted; and therefore ſwore ten times more than before, or, in other words, at the rate of ten pounds an hour—all which, with every aggravated expence, he was obliged to pay before he obtained his liberty.

There was another ſpecies of game that turned to very good account; this conſiſted of the ladies of the town. As theſe poor devils are generally under the hank of their landladies, for the loan of cloathes, board and lodging, during the long vacation, or upon a dearth of trade occaſioned by any other cauſe; they are frequently lodged in a lock-up, alias, a ſpunging-houſe, in hopes that ſome of their beſt friends may pay their debts; but as it often happens that theſe friends are out of town at theſe times, or that they do not prove ſo good as was expected, they are ſometimes confined for ſeveral

months. Now if they happen to be good fine girls, Mr. Catchpole, who has generally a ſtock of cloathes for the occaſion, fits them out for either Vauxhall, the Play-houſes, or the ſtreet-patrole, and lets them out every evening upon their parole of honour to go in ſearch of prey. The ſupplies levied in this manner muſt be particularly accounted for, and if the leaſt ſuſpicion ariſes that they have ſunk any of the caſh, they are not allowed to renew their excurſions. As they are brought to book every morning upon this account, after they have paid for lodging, board, cloathes hiring, and civility money, they have ſeldom more left than will purchaſe a pair of gloves to exhibit in the enſuing evening. Bolland uſed to ſay, "he would rather have a "brace of good fillies in training in Shire-lane, "than Eclipſe himſelf upon the New Market "courſe." It alſo frequently happens that gay ſparks fluſh of money, though unable to pay their debts, are confined under the ſame roof: a fine girl here is ſure of her market, the buck cannot go out, a piece muſt be had, and none can be more convenient or ready at hand than an inmate. Upon ſuch an occaſion there are fine fleecings—a hundred pounds in a week are but

but a mere flea bite. Jemmy Bolland once had two bucks of the firſt head, and two very fine nuns from King's-place under his roof at the ſame time, which made him ſay, "Egad, I'm a "d——d lucky dog—I have all the four hon-"ours in my own hand at once, and what is "more, have held them for theſe three months." It was computed that not leſs than a thouſand pounds were ſpent in this *party quaere*; and yet, ſtrange to tell, the poor girls upon obtaining their liberty had not a guinea between them to begin the world again with.

There is another kind of lodgers that are very advantageous to their hoſts: theſe are profeſſed gameſters. If a young man of fortune, through extravagance, happens to be lodged in a ſpunging-houſe where one of the gentlemen black-legs is an inmate, the latter ſoon makes an acquaintance, and pretends to let him into all the ſecrets of "the priſon-houſe;" points out to him the impoſitions of the keeper, and gives ſuch hints and cautions which appear ſo friendly, that the young gentleman is thrown quite off his guard, and the ſharper is conſidered as the moſt worthy ſincere fellow in the world. Having

ing thus ingratiated himſelf into the good opinion of his fellow lodger, he is eaſily perſuaded by him to do every thing that *Black Legs* thinks the moſt eligible. "My dear friend, this Joſhua "of ours is a d——d raſcal; he fleeces all the "world; you and I are his conſtant prey; and I "I think it is no ſin to fleece him in turn. The "ſcoundrel is very fond of cards, and he thinks "he plays at cribbage as well as any man in the "world; but the truth is, he is a d—n'd flat, "and knows nothing of the matter; but the "misfortune is, he knows I am out of caſh, "and wont play with me for money: now, if "you would back me, and let me go your "halves, we would ſtrip him of every guinea "he has in the world." The bait is tempting, and revenge is ſweet. The young gentleman requires no further perſuaſion: the match is made, down they ſit; Catchpole offers five pounds upon the game, the 'Squire takes him up and wins. Catchpole is called aſide about buſineſs, and Black Legs adviſes the 'Squire to lay it on thick, for you ſee, ſays he, "it is quite hollow." Twenty, fifty, a hundred is ſtaked—and the young gentleman is ſtripped of between four and five hundred. "What a d—n'd run of

"luck,"

" luck," exclaims Black Legs, " did you ever " ſee ſuch infernal cards—booby-beat by G—d, " by a fellow that does not know hearts from " ſpades—I ſhall never be eaſy till I have my " revenge."

The young gentleman unſuſpicious of any fraud, raiſes pecuniary recruits as ſoon as poſſible, in order to recover his loſſes, or perhaps Catchpole agrees to take his note in caſe he loſes; and thus the unhappy young gentleman is, probably, totally ruined by being confined for a debt, which he might have eaſily paid in a ſhort time.

It is true that ſuch lucky circumſtances do not often happen when a Black Legs is in confinement; but they have happened, as the writer of theſe pages can certify, having unfortunately been compelled to be an eye-witneſs of ſuch proceedings. But a *Black Legs* is ſtill an excellent gueſt to a Bolland, or a Crompton. As he lives by the long *ſhuffle*, or the *cog*, if there are no pigeons at home, he muſt go abroad in purſuit of them. Tony Allen has many a time made his appearance full dreſſed at the Cocoa-

Cocoa-tree or Tom's, when he has been a priſoner of Jemmy Bolland. The civility-money upon theſe occaſions is very exorbitant; and Tony has been heard to declare he has paid five hundred a year civility-money, for the privilege of making his appearance of an evening at the polite gaming-houſes about town.

There is one more ſort of inmates that are very profitable to the hoſts of ſpunging-houſes. Theſe are diſſipated actors, who by play or other extravagancies, create debts which they cannot pay, and are confined in theſe *pleaſant* retreats. If they do not perform on thoſe nights that are appointed for them, their pay diſcontinues, and they have no ſupport. Their liberty, therefore, becomes abſolutely neceſſary upon theſe occaſions, as their very exiſtence depends upon it: their names are announced in the bills of the day, they muſt act, or they would not only loſe their ſalaries, but forfeit the good opinion they had obtained of the town. Civility-money is now the word; but it frequently becomes a very hard one, when the exigency is great: "A "guinea, maſter!"—No, that won't do—beſides you touch your week's ſalary to day, and I know

maſter

maſter Shuter is a generous gentleman!" Thus was poor Ned fleeced at times for many years, and his natural beneficence united to neceſſity, coſt ſome hundreds in this way. Weſton, and ſome other gentlemen of the boards, now living, have paid very handſomely for the liberty of walking from Stanhope-ſtreet, Shire-lane, and its environs, to Drury-lane or Covent-garden. Thus do theſe leeches of mankind fatten upon diſtreſs; they drive their phaetons, and keep their running horſes by fleecing the unfortunate, and aggravating miſery by the groſſeſt impoſitions. No wonder that the Gazette is crammed with bankrupts, or teems with inſolvents, whoſe misfortune, and not their fault, exhibit them in this diſagreeable point of view!

Beſides theſe *manœuvres à la mode de Bolland*, Joſhua did not fail availing himſelf of the common *routine* of office. He knew how to procure good Jew bail at the Robin-hood at a minute's warning.—*A proper douceur* might diſpenſe with a gentleman's preſence at Crompton's, though the ſum was ever ſo great, as the civility-money muſt always be in proportion. He play'd this game for a conſiderable time with ſucceſs;

but at length the ſtring was pulled too tight, and it broke. The Sheriffs being fixed with a conſiderable debt, for a perſon who had obtained his parole from Crompton, he was ſtruck off the liſt of their officers, and now became a private gentleman.

Whilſt the money laſted, which he had ſaved, he made a gay appearance, attended all the races, and aſſociated with the Black Legs, in order to get into the ſecret; but as many of them had greatly ſuffered by his exorbitant demands when he was in office, they thought it was very fair to recriminate upon him in their vocation, and frequently ſet him upon a wrong ſcent, whereby he became a conſiderable ſufferer, and his finances were ſooner exhauſted than he expected.

A broken bailiff, and a broken gambler united in one character, repreſent one of the moſt infamous, and at the ſame time contemptible characters in the univerſe. A ſucceſsful rogue may meet with pretended friends, ſycophants, and toad-eaters; but theſe muſt be amongſt the moſt deſpicable of the human race. Crows

that

that feed on carrion, honor them too much with a compariſon. But an unſucceſsful rogue is much more miſerable, as he can diſpenſe no favours, beſtow no bounties, or afford any relief even to himſelf; inſtead, therefore, of being praiſed for his adroiteneſs, his cunning, his knowledge of the world, he only hears himſelf inceſſantly abuſed by the wretches who in his proſperity cringed to him and fawned upon him; by the honeſt part of mankind he is ſhunned and deteſted.

In ſuch a *pleaſurable ſituation* (to uſe a phraſe of that great pulpit orator *Chriſtie*) what was to be done? He could not ſhew his face at Newmarket, there he had been whipt off the courſe for *throwing of Stones* *: nor could he exhibit himſelf in a Cock-pit, for there he had been *baſketed* for a *Levant* †. Some new mode, ſome freſh

* *Throwing of ſtones*, according to the language of the turf, is betting without money.

† In the cock-pit, when a perſon throws a Levant (which is another mode of expreſſion for *throwing of ſtones*,) the culprit is put into a large baſket, and drawn up to the roof of the cock-pit, where he is obliged to continue in this ſituation during the remainder of the ſport. There is an

freſh purſuit became neceſſary; but without money, without friends, what reſources had he?

One day, whilſt he was walking in the Park, and counting the trees for a dinner, the caſe with many a broken gameſter, he was accoſted by a perſon whom he did not at firſt recollect. "What Joſhua (ſaid he) is it you?—Why you "ſeem to be quite in a brown ſtudy?" 'Ay, '(replied Joſhua) you might have ſaid a black 'ſtudy, if you would.' "Why, what's the

anecdote pretty well authenticated amongſt the ſporting gentlemen, that one *Gates* being in this predicament, and notwithſtanding he had no money in his pocket, and conſequently could not expect that his bets would be taken, had the *Furor* of gaming ſo ſtrong upon him, that according as the odds varied, he vociferated, "I'll lay three to "two, two to one, five to two, three to one, four to one, "five to one, a guinea to a ſhilling, the long odds, ten "pounds to a crown," to the no ſmall diverſion of the auditors and ſpectators, who commiſerating his caſe, and attributing his imprudence to his uncontroulable rage for play, ſhortened his puniſhment, and one gentleman out of compaſſion giving him a ſhilling, and *Gates* taking the long odds all through, went off with a hundred guineas in his pocket; and he afterwards, from this ſource, became a very capital ſportſman upon the turf.

"matter"

" matter" (reſumed his old acquaintance). "Every thing is the matter, (replied Crompton)—I'll lay you a beef ſteak and a pot of 'porter, you do not tell me how many trees 'there are from the bottom of the Mall to 'Buckingham Houſe.' " You are pleaſant, " Joſhua, what buſineſs have I with the trees? " I am not ranger of the Park." 'But, I am, '(reſumed Crompton) and am likely to make a 'very comfortable vegetable meal upon the 'leaves.'

The myſtery was now ſoon explained; they repaired to an adjacent public-houſe, and Joſhua's friend (who had been his ſchool-fellow) readily paid the wager propoſed, though he had not loſt it. After Crompton had refreſhed himſelf and recovered ſpirits ſufficient, he began to inquire after his relations and friends in the country, and then gave a ſketch of his life from his failure at Lancaſter; but prudently concealed every circumſtance that might tell againſt him. His ſchool-fellow then related ſome of his adventures, and brought down his ſtory to the preſent time, by informing him he was come to London, being commiſſioned by a lottery-club

of

of which he was a member to receive the money of a prize they had got in the laſt lottery. To this Joſhua liſtened very attentively, as he had adopted the Norman adage, "That it was not "neceſſary to have money on's ſelf, but to be "where there was money."

In fine, Crompton informed his friend that he had that very day been looking after a ſmall ſhop in Red-lion paſſage leading to Red-lion ſquare, but for want of a little money he could not take it. His friend aſked him what buſineſs it was in, he replied, the pork way.—"Ay, "(ſaid his ſchool-fellow) that's lucky; why I "have a relation who is a capital pork butcher "in Newgate market, and I dare ſay he will "give you credit at my recommendation."

The truth is, that Crompton in a ſauntering deſponding mood had really ſeen a ſhop to be lett, in Red-lion paſſage, and was ruminating upon the means of taking it with the fixtures, and once more endeavour to obtain an honeſt livelyhood. The buſineſs being thus far entered upon, after dinner they repaired to the ſpot, and Joſhua's friend finding every thing anſwer the account

account he had given, not only advanced him the money to purchaſe the fixtures, but lent him a ſmall ſum to enter upon buſineſs.

We now find Crompton in a decent line of life, and for ſome time acting conſiſtent with the character he propoſed ſuſtaining, that of an honeſt ſhoopkeeper. Indeed, he behaved ſo well in the neighbourhood, that he was conſidered as a very good ſort of man, and got a pretty tolerable ſhare of cuſtom. Amongſt the number of his cuſtomers was the houſekeeper of a gentleman of conſiderable fortune in Bedford-row. She had lived ſeveral years in the family, and having a very profitable place, had ſaved ſome hundred pounds. Crompton at this time paſſed for a widower, and being apparently very well ſettled in buſineſs, and a ſober man, ſhe liſtened to his addreſſes, and a treaty of marriage was far advanced, when an execution took place in his houſe, which entirely deſtroyed the expected alliance.

It may be neceſſary to acquaint our readers, that though Crompton kept up appearances at home, and he paſſed for a very regular ſober man

man in the neighbourhood, his paſſion for play had again ſeized him, and that he had an inceſſant run of ill-luck for ſeveral weeks, which had induced him to borrow money wherever he could, and upon whatever terms he could obtain it: hence a bond and judgment was enforced at a time when he was by many conſidered in a very thriving way, and when he was upon the point of marrying a woman of conſiderable property. This was a moſt fortunate circumſtance for this good unſuſpicious woman, who would have been his third wife then living, and who would have had the pungent mortification of having her property ſoon ſquandered away, herſelf a beggar, and her huſband executed.

Once more thrown upon the world deſtitute of the means of ſupport, his ſituation became deſperate, and he now aſſociated with a ſet of informers and ſwindlers, whom he has himſelf publickly deſcribed in the following advertiſement, publiſhed in the General Advertiſer.

"A CAUTION to the PUBLIC.

" WHEREAS one W—, who calls him-
" ſelf an Attorney at law, and one C—, who
" pretends he belongs to the Cuſtom-houſe, but
" he does not: the above W— is a great cuſ-
" tomer of one Tallboys, in Fullwood's-rents,
" Holborn, and has lately uſed the Black-Prince,
" at Newington-butts, Surry, but ſeldom ſtays
" long in a place; but I think it my duty, for
" the good of the public in general, to ſet forth
" their calling, and the way they get their liv-
" living, which I can do with truth and juſtice;
" and that is, by all ſort of common informa-
" tions, rewards, &c. which they are ſeldom at a
" loſs for; and their deception is ſo great, that
" they can complete every thing they take in
" hand.

" This is wrote by an injured party, and if
" either of them can ſay they are not guilty of
" theſe charges, and more than is here inſerted,
" let them ſhew their innocence; and till they
" can clear themſelves from theſe and many
" more, they will ſtand charged with the moſt

" wicked and cruel acts that ever two men were
" guilty of.

" JOSHUA CROMPTON.

" New Gaol, July 23, 1778."

With these worthy friends, who had formerly been his runners, when he was in the honourable capacity of a bailiff, he entered into a partnership. The poor barbers paid dearly for their soap-suds on a Sunday, and Justice Beard-Stubble, of St. James's Parish, found them excellent assistants to his shop. On Monday morning he generally gave audience to a dozen Tonsors, attended by Messrs. C. W. and C. who took particular care that they paid their fines regularly, as they had a very sensible fellow-feeling in these *legal* payments. The shavers were not, however, the only objects of their attention; the butchers, and the publicans were duly attended to, and when the former opened their shops on Sundays, or the latter served in sermon-time, Justice Midas was made duly acquainted with their offences. By this means they for sometime got a livelyhood; but their faces being at length pretty well known at all the penny barbers shops and ale-houses about town,

town, they found it neceſſary to change their plan of operations, and to go upon a larger ſcale of chicane.

They ſhuddered at the thoughts of the *Juſtitia*, and ballaſt-heaving; but hunger beats down ſtone walls ſays the Proverb, and eat they muſt. One of them went down to Chatham, and wrote up by the poſt an order for twenty dozen of ſhoes for the Marines who were then quartered there. C. went to a wholeſale dealer, produced his order with the poſt mark, and had them ſent to his counting-houſe in Gravel-lane; but inſtead of being conveyed to Chatham, they travelled no further than Butcher-row, where they were converted into caſh at the rate of 75 per cent. diſcount.

The money ariſing from this operation did not laſt long, a check was procured and a bill drawn in an imaginary name, which was negociated by a certain Levite, who has lately made his appearance at Guildhall, and is ſentenced to ſerve his Majeſty as a ſoldier.

Houſes were furniſhed and unfurniſhed in twenty-four hours, and the brokers market in

Moorfields conſiderably increaſed by their ingenuity and induſtry. This thriving trade continued for ſeveral months, but informations being lodged againſt ſome of the co-partnerſhip, it was neceſſary to decamp and live retired for a time.

During this retreat, Crompton made an acquaintance with an Engraver, whoſe circumſtances were as deſperate as his own, and they planned the ſcheme of forging Bank notes, which Crompton agreed to diſpoſe of. A plate was accordingly engraved ſimilar to that of a Bank note, but they could get no paper with the water mark, having the words *Bank of England* in the paper. However, they got ſome very thin paper which much reſembled that of the Bank, with the difference only of the water mark being omitted. Crompton being thus ſupplied with a *valuable* quantity of ſoft paper ſet off for Epſom, in May, 1777, having previouſly negociated one of theſe forged bills at the houſe of Mr. Wiltſhire, a publican in the Borough, in company with one Farthing, who pretended to be arreſted by Crompton; and which circumſtance occaſioned Wiltſhire to be taken into

cuſtody,

cuſtody and confined ſome time, as well as his brother, for having correſponded with Crompton, as will appear by the ſubjoined trial. On the 8th, of that month he went to the houſe of William Cotton, a taylor at Epſom, and enquired for lodgings, which he took, and lay there the next night. The following morning he ſent an apprentice boy with a 20l. Bank note to buy ſtockings, which he did at Mr. Saker's, and returned with the change and ſtockings to the priſoner. He afterwards changed another 20l. note with Mr. Giſkin, linen-draper, at Epſom, buying linen, as he ſaid, for his wife. After he had diſpoſed of theſe notes at Epſom, he ſet off for Guildford; but here learning that Sir John Fielding's people were in purſuit of him, he precipitately returned to London, and ſecreted himſelf in Hanover-yard, till he could make his eſcape, as he intended, to France; but no French ſhip being ready to ſail, he went on board a veſſel bound to Perth in Scotland, having changed his name to John Brown. He arrived ſafe at Dundee, but, whether for the ſake of the reward or not, the perſon who was inſtrumental in procuring his paſſage, gave information to Sir John Fielding of his departure and deſtination. Accordingly,

cordingly, George Rutton, one of Sir John's men, was ſent down after him, and apprehended Crompton at Dundee; when after being examined there by a magiſtrate, he was conducted up to town and lodged in the New Gaol, Southwark.

Whilſt he was here confined, he was frequently viſited by S——, who pretended great friendſhip for Crompton, and ſaid he would find means to facilitate his eſcape. S. accordingly got very intimate with the turnkeys; treated them generouſly with porter and ſpirits; pretending he was ſent to viſit Crompton at the requeſt of the Directors of the Bank, in order to find out what number of forged notes he had circulated, and who were his accomplices; that it was neceſſary to put on the maſk of friendſhip to effect his deſign the more eaſily; but that in his heart he deſpiſed and abhorred ſuch a villain. The turnkeys thinking S. engaged in the ſame buſineſs as themſelves, aiding to bring Crompton to juſtice, placed great confidence in S. and even entruſted him with the keys, when they were inclined to ſleep through intoxication, which frequently happened. One afternoon, when

when S. had plied the turnkeys plentifully with beer and gin, and they were taking their afternoon's nap, S. let out Crompton in company with C. and ſeveral others, entirely unobſerved by the turnkeys, though in his uſual dreſs, and not in any diſguiſe whatever, as has been miſrepreſented.

It ſhould have been premiſed, that ſome days before his eſcape, the keeper of the priſon had been prevailed upon, to let Crompton have his fetters knock'd off, at the repreſentation of a ſurgeon, who declared, that if they continued on, a mortification would enſue in leſs than twenty-four hours, and that it would be impoſſible he could live till the aſſizes and be legally brought to juſtice.

S. having thus effected Crompton's eſcape, was the readieſt to go, as he pretended, in ſearch of him, ſaying he knew all his haunts, and that it was impoſſible he could get abroad, as to his certain knowledge, Crompton had not a ſhilling in the world; which was true, till S. had ſupplied him with ſome money to make his eſcape. By this means S. led Fielding's people entirely upon a wrong

a wrong ſcent, and in the mean while Crompton went on board a Dutch trader, and got ſafe to Fluſhing.

S.'s real game was now to begin; the keeper of the jail immediately advertiſed a reward of 100 l. for apprehending Crompton; but this bait was not ſufficiently tempting for S. to put his project in execution; he accordingly applied to the Directors of the Bank, whom he informed he could produce Crompton, if they would make it worth his while. The ſum of 200 l. was accordingly ſtipulated for his reward, and he immediately repaired to Fluſhing; where finding Crompton in great diſtreſs, he readily ſupplied him with money for his preſent exigencies; and told him he was very happy to bring him ſuch agreeable tidings, for that he had in his pocket his pardon, producing a forged inſtrument, whereby the Directors of the Bank promiſed to drop the proſecution.

Thus deluded, Crompton, who upon many occaſions was very artful and penetrating, was at the moſt important and critical period of his life trapanned, by repoſing an implicit confidence in

in a man, whom he thought to be his real friend, and who had hitherto acted in ſuch a manner as to give ſeemingly the ſtrongeſt proofs of it.

Crompton did not heſitate; rejoiced to ſee his native country again, without danger, as he believed; and where he might gain a livelihood by induſtry or his wits, inſtead of ſtarving in a foreign country that would afford him no relief.

In a word, he returned immediately with S, and after a ſhort paſſage, landed at Graveſend, from whence they arrived the ſame day in Wapping. They repaired to a public-houſe in that neighbourhood, where C. waited for their arrival, and whilſt S. and Crompton were refreſhing themſelves after their fatigue, C. repaired to the keeper of the New Gaol, and informed him that his priſoner was arrived from Holland, and ſafely lodged in Wapping. The keeper immediately diſpatched ſome of his myrmidons, ſecured Crompton, and re-conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Crompton's aſtoniſhment at S.'s perfidy can better be imagined than deſcribed; ſince his

confinement, being convinced of his fate, he ſeems to be in friendſhip with all the world, except W. and C. whom he ardently wiſhes may meet the doom they ſo juſtly merit.

The following are the particulars of his trial which came on on Friday morning July the 31ſt, at half paſt eight o'clock, at Guildford, for a frogery on the Bank of England, and laſted till two o'clock; there were two charges of forgery laid in the indictment, viz. "For forging a 20l. "Bank note, dated May 5, 1773, No. 56, "marked K. payable to Thomas Harris, Eſq; "or bearer, on demand, purporting to be a "Bank note, ſigned by the Governor and "Co. of the Bank of England, and ſubſcribed "Thomas Grant." It was alſo ſtated as "a "promiſſory note from the Governor and "Co."

On theſe two charges there were formed, for forging, cauſing to be forged, uttering and publiſhing, with intent to defraud the ſeveral different perſons, no leſs than 24 counts, either of which was capital.

Mr.

Mr. Sylveſter, Mr. Peckham, and Mr. Fielding, were counſel for the proſecution, and Mr. Morgan for the priſoner.

Mr. Peckham opened the caſe, obſerving, that though he was counſel for the proſecution, yet ſo far he would be counſel for the priſoner, as candidly to remind the jury, that although the charge of forgery might not be made out, yet with regard to the uttering, he begged in the name of God, that if they had any reaſon to believe that the note came fairly and honeſtly into the priſoner's poſſeſſion, they would acquit him, for that it was very poſſible that any one man of the jury might have the misfortune to receive a forged note and publiſh it without knowing it to be forged. At the ſame time that Mr. Peckham ſo generouſly ſtated that remark to the jury, he related the fact ſo clearly and with ſuch obſervations, that if made out by the witneſſes, he left the priſoner very little hopes of a verdict in his favour.

William Callen, a taylor at Epſom, was firſt called, and depoſed, that on the 8th of May, 1777, the priſoner came to his houſe in a lead

blue ſuit of cloaths, and inquired for lodgings; that they agreed, and on the 9th the priſoner ſlept there. A coat and pair of boots were produced, and ſworn by him to have been the priſoner's.

John Quinby, an apprentice, ſwore he ſaw the priſoner at Epſom on the 10th of May in the morning at Callen's, and was called up ſtairs by Crompton, to go on a meſſage to buy ſtockings for him; that he went to Mr. Gaſkin's and brought ſeveral pair, out of which the priſoner choſe two; that the priſoner did not bid him go to Gaſkin's, or any particular place, but that having choſen two pair, the priſoner gave him a 20 l. Bank note to pay for them; that he went to Mr. Saker's, at the Spread Eagle in Epſom, who changed it, and he returned the change to the priſoner; and that when Crompton gave him the note he took it out of a red pocket-book, and that he ſaw ſeveral other papers like Bank notes in the priſoner's poſſeſſion. This note, which is alſo a forged one, was not in the indictment.

John

John Collins ſwore, that he was ſent for by the priſoner to Callen's to ſell him a pair of boots, his own having burſt; but not fitting him, he bought a pair of ſhoes for 6s. 6d. and that he ſaw the priſoner give Quinby a note to pay for the ſtockings.

Mr. Gaſkin, linen-draper of Epſom, who alſo ſells hard-ware, and who received a note of Quinby, depoſed, that on Saturday, May 10, about eleven in the morning, the priſoner came to his ſhop to purchaſe a pair of buckles, which he did for half a crown, and that the priſoner then ſaid, as Mr. Gaſkin ſold linens, &c. he would buy ſomething for his wife, if Mr. Gaſkin could change him a 20l. Bank note, as he wanted caſh; that he ſold the priſoner different pieces for gowns, to the amount of 4l. 13s. 8d. when the priſoner took a note of 20l. from his pocket-book, which Mr. Gaſkin examined for the water-marks; but that it appearing an old and ſoiled note, he could not make out the letters; but yet he ſaw the O in the word OF, and the N in the word ENGLAND, and ſo looked on it as a good one; that he went to Mr. Saker's alſo to get it changed, who took it, looked at it,

and

and gave caſh for it. Being aſked as to the deſcription of the note? Mr. Gaſkin deſcribed it; and the note being produced, he ſwore it to be the ſame he received of the priſoner, by a hole rubbed through under the Britannia, by way of diſguiſe, which was in when he took it; by his name put on it at Sir John Fielding's, and alſo by the thinneſs of the paper.

Mr. Saker, of the Spread Eagle, confirmed Quinby and Mr. Gaſkin, and alſo depoſed, that he inſtantly gave it to Mr. Dennet, partner to Mr. Kippling, tea-dealer of Tower-ſtreet, in London, who deſired to have it, and gave a bill of exchange and part caſh for it, and that Mr. Dennet alſo looked at it by Mr. Saker's deſire. Mr. Saker ſwore poſitively to the note.

Mr. Dennet ſwore he ſaw Gaſkin give the note to Saker; that he had the note, as above, of Saker; and alſo ſwore to the note, by the large hole under the Britannia; that he gave it to Mr. Kippling, and paid it, with another Bank note of 20l. and others, to the amount of 80l. to Mr. Kippling.

Mr.

Mr. Kippling confirmed this, ſwore to the note, and that he paid it in to Halliday and Co. his bankers in London.

Mr. Sharman, clerk to Halliday and Co. ſwore to the note and the receipt of it from Mr. Kippling, that the deſcription of it taken in the book was 20l. letter K. No. 56, dated May 5, 1773. On his croſs-examination, he acknowledged that it was very probable that there might be Bank notes out for the ſame ſum, the ſame letter, number, and date of another year, but he ſwore to the note produced being the note he received of Kippling.

Mr. Brown, another of Halliday's clerks, ſwore he diſcovered the forgery in half an hour after it came in, by obſerving it was not ſigned by any Caſhier of the Bank. That Mr. Newland, Chief Caſhier of the Bank, was then at their houſe, to whom he ſhewed it, and it turned out to be a forgery.

Mr. Halliday was ſworn, in order to trace an after poſſeſſion in Mr. Newland. Mr. Newland proved the note a forgery, by its not being ſigned

ed by any Caſhier of the Bank, and that there was no ſuch man belonging to the Bank as Thomas Grant, and by there being no water-mark, or trace of the O or N; but he acknowledged, on croſs examination, that the water-marks will vaniſh by time and uſe, but that there never was a Bank note at firſt without water-marks.

Mr. Acton, ſollicitor to the Bank, ſwore the note was delivered to him by Mr. Newland; that from private informations and great aſſiduity he had reaſon to ſuſpect the priſoner to be the man who publiſhed the note, in conſequence of which he ſearched his lodgings in Carey-ſtreet, Lincoln's-inn-fields, and found the coat Crompton wore, and the linen and cotton for gowns, which was bought of Mr. Gaſkin. That the priſoner had left his lodgings, and that he afterwards was taken in Scotland, and that he confeſſed before Sir John Fielding his knowledge of its being a forgery. Mr. Gaſkin ſwore alſo to the pieces of linen.

Mr. Davenport, of Carey-ſtreet, with whom Crompton lodged, ſwore that when Mr. Acton and ſome of Sir John Fielding's men came to ſearch,

ſearch, he refuſed them admittance, conſidering himſelf as the guardian of his houſe, and, in his abſence, the protector of his lodger's property, and that he would not permit them to ſearch, becauſe they had no warrant or any authority whatever. That the next day Mr. Acton came with Mr. Bond and others of Sir John Fielding's men with a warrant, and then he, Mr. Davenport, ſent for a ſmith, who broke open the door and bureau, and took out the pieces for gowns, &c. He likewiſe ſwore, that he was at Epſom races with the priſoner on the Wedneſday, Thurſday, and Friday; that on the Friday evening Mr. Davenport returned to town, and on the morning the priſoner came home, of whom he enquired what luck he had had? When the priſoner ſhewed him a large purſe full of gold, and ſeveral notes, which he ſaid he had won at the races.

Robert Waller, of Hanover-yard, Oxford-road, ſwore that he had been many years acquainted with the priſoner; that on the Wedneſday in the Whitſun week of laſt year, the priſoner came from Guildford to his houſe in the evening, and bid him take home a horſe to

Bond's-ſtables, Fetter-lane, and gave him directions to ſay, if enquired into, that he brought the horſe from the Magdalen coffee-houſe, St. George's-fields. That he took the horſe home, and that the priſoner ſtaid and lay at his houſe all night. That he carried a letter to a Mr. Wiltſhire, who was at Guildford, the next day, and when he returned (Friday) the priſoner was gone; but this witneſs ſaid, that at that time the priſoner's wife lay dead at Mr. Davenport's, and that the reaſon why the priſoner lay at his houſe was, the fears the priſoner entertained of being arreſted for 30l. and that Mr. Wiltſhire was deſired by him to ſee his wife's burial managed in Crompton's abſence.

Mrs. Waller confirmed this, and ſwore that on Friday morning the priſoner left her houſe, and that ſhe bought other cloaths for him in Monmouth-ſtreet, which cloaths were meant as a diſguiſe. The reaſon of this flight from Guildford, and going to Waller's, was owing to the alarm Crompton had received of the diſcovery when at Guildford.

Thomas

Thomas Miller, who keeps the ſign of the City of Briſtol, at Iron-gate, Tower hill, depoſed, that the priſoner, whom he knew before, came to his houſe, and ſaid, that he had been unfortunate enough to receive ſome Bank notes which had been forged; that Sir John Fielding's people were after him, and he wanted to go to France directly; but that no French veſſel being ready, he ſaw the priſoner ſafe that evening on board a veſſel bound to Perth in Scotland; that he paſſed as John Brown on board, and alſo changed his dreſs, but ſaid, he ſhould return to take his trial in proper time, for that he ſtood exactly in the ſame predicament as one Roupel in the Strand, at whoſe houſe a ſerjeant in the guards had been killed, and who was indicted, and that Roupel fled, but afterwards returned, when the principal was acquitted of the murder. He alſo ſwore, that believing the priſoner's ſtory to be true, he lent him his aſſiſtance.

George Rutton, one of Sir John Fielding's men, was laſt examined. He ſwore to the apprehending of the priſoner at Dundee, on the fourth day after his ſailing, and finding a pocket-

book (by information) in a private pocket in the back part of his breeches. That the priſoner confeſſed he knew of the notes being bad at the time of the uttering. That when he was firſt apprehended and examined before a magiſtrate in Scotland, he ſaid he had the notes of one Thorogood. That at Sir John's he ſaid he had them of one Farthing, an attorney's clerk, now fled abroad. It was alſo proved, that the priſoner had ſaid he received them as winnings at Epſom races.

The evidence cloſed here. He was called on for his defence, but he ſaid nothing material, and only impreſſed the Jury with ſtronger ideas of his guilt, by ſome very trifling queſtions, all tending to hurt him. The Jury without heſitation pronounced him GUILTY.

On Saturday morning Joſhua Crompton was indicted with Mr. Wiltſhire, who ſurrendered on his bail, and who was charged by the proſecution to have been in Crompton's company when another of theſe forged notes was paſſed at Mr. Thompſon's, cheeſemonger in the Borough.

The

The caſe was ſhortly as follows: that Crompton and Farthing went to a public-houſe in the Borough. Farthing pretended to have been arreſted by Crompton, and from that public-houſe the note was carried to a Mr. Thompſon's. From the unfortunate circumſtance of that letter which Crompton wrote to Mr. Wiltſhire, at Guildford, and a ſuſpicion only of his having been once in company with Crompton a few hours after the publication, Mr. Wiltſhire was unhappily indicted for forgery and publiſhing. The evidence againſt Mr. Wiltſhire failed in every particular, for they were never proved once together, except at Guildford before the publication. The indictment was alſo bad, for with regard to Mr. Wiltſhire, it ſhould have ſtated the fact in Middleſex. The letter was proved to have been ſent to Mr. Wiltſhire by Crompton, begging the former to ſee his wife buried. Mr. Wiltſhire was alſo openly in London long after Crompton's apprehenſion. The judge would not ſum up the evidence againſt Mr. Wiltſhire, and told the Jury, with regard to Crompton, it was unneceſſary, from the unfortunate predicament he ſtood in, being already convicted.

Joſhua

Joſhua Crompton received ſentence of death on Saturday, Auguſt 1, for publiſhing a forged Bank note; when he was aſked by the Judge,—What was the reaſon of making his eſcape, as he had hitherto proteſted his innocence, and deſired nothing more than being brought to a fair trial?—He replied, "he "would not have done it, if he had not been "in want of money, or could have ſupported "himſelf until his trial came on."

Since his condemnation, he appears quite reconciled to his fate; is very penitent, frequently reading pious books; acknowledges he has been guilty of many crimes; ſincerely laments the misfortunes he has brought upon two wives and his children, and ſeems only ſolicitous for their welfare.

We cannot cloſe theſe Memoirs without making a remark that forces itſelf upon us; which is, that Shire-lane ſeems to be an unfortunate ſpot for training of Bailiffs. Bolland ſuffered out of the ſame houſe. H—dſ—n, his ſucceſſor was ruined in it, and obliged to ſubmit to the menial

menial condition of being a runner to his ſon-in-law, Crompton; and as for Crompton, his fate is ſimilar to that great archetype of arreſts, whom he ſo cloſely immitated, the immortal Bolland.

FINIS.